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FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7033
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHCHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 2401
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DEPT FOR EUR/SCE, PM/WRA, ISN
DOD FOR OSD/WPOPOVICH

E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: [PARM](#) [MASS](#) [PREL](#) [AL](#)
SUBJECT: ALBANIA: MANPADS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

¶1. (U) Embassy has received the following letter date April 23, 2008, addressed to Major Larry D. Harrison, Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation, from Lieutenant General Luan Hoxha, Chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, requesting U.S. military assistance with man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS).

¶2. (U) Begin text:

Dear Major Harrison:

As we already discussed with the US Embassy concerning man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS) and following the Council of Minister's order and letter from the Deputy Prime Minister's office concerning their destruction, I respectfully request your urgent assistance to the Ministry of Defense to bring a team of US military experts concerning the following:

¶1. An assessment of the MANPADS military capability and;

¶2. The technical parameters of the MANPADS to evaluate their life expectancy.

Your assistance in this matter to the General Staff and the Ministry of Defense is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

/s/ Lieutenant General Luan Hoxha
End text.

¶3. (SBU) Embassy understands a team of experts to respond to this request is already being assembled and should arrive in Tirana on Sunday, April 27. We request confirmation of the names and passport information of the participants in the team at Washington's earliest convenience. Post appreciates Washington's support.

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